

May 12, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)

Food and Drug Administration

5630 Fishers Lane Rm. 1061

Rockville MD 20852

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038 Irradiation in The Production,
Processing, and Handling of Food

We urge you to extend the comment period past its current end date of May 18th to allow more concerned citizens the time to write in about this issue.

We do support the recommendation by The Center for Science in The Public Interest regarding labeling of foods which have been irradiated.

"any food, or any foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the international symbol. If the food is unpackaged this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale."

98N 1038 The term "pasteurization" should not be used; it is misleading. The requirement for irradiation C2483

disclosure should not expire for there are constantly new consumers of any particular product who will not be aware^{110f} of any irradiation labels from the past.

As the long term health effects of eating irradiated foods are unknown the public must have a choice and therefore must be informed

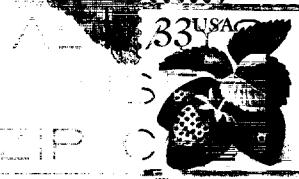
Sincerely

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